REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James M. Slattery (Reg. 28,380) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

James M. Slattery, #28,380 #43 368

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

JMS/RFG/abs 0369-0208P Attachments

(Rev. 12/19/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 11 has been amended as follows:

Figs. 3A to [3B] $\underline{3C}$ present process diagrams for explaining the caulking mode of the caulked portion of Fig. 1;